



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

Office of the Director

RL:0463

SB 2338-82 RELATING TO THE BANNING OF FIREWORKS

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Judiciary
Public Hearing - 8 March 1982

By
Alexander Dollar, Public Health
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center
Diana Shepherd, Environmental Center

SB 2338-82 proposes to limit and restrict the use of fireworks throughout the State for public health and safety reasons. This statement has been reviewed by the Environmental Center's Legislative Subcommittee, but does not represent an institutional position of the University.

Discharge of fireworks results in direct injury to those who fail to observe safe standards for ignition, creates air pollution by production of noxious and injurious particulates, gases and vapors from combustion, injures and disturbs both people and pets by the excessive noise from explosions and is a cause of property losses due to fires. A reasonable first step in their control would be to limit the availability of aerial fireworks. This would reduce the risk of property damage due to fires, but would provide only limited relief of the health effects due to particulates, gases, and vapors which irritate lungs and respiratory passages or the hazards to those sensitive to impact noises.

The Environmental Center cannot appropriately offer advice on the balance between the advantages that would result from the passage of SB 2338 and the associated losses of recreational opportunities and religious observances. However, we recommend amendment of the bill in a few particulars:

- a) Section 2 Prohibition; Permitted Uses - This section does not provide for the sale of explosive emergency signalling devices. We recommend that a paragraph be added to exempt the sale and use of signalling fares for emergency use from the prohibitions in the bill.
- b) Section 6 Prohibitions relating to minors below age of 18 years - We suggest that this section be amended to include any explosive fireworks and not be limited to aerial fireworks. Frequent misuse and injury result when minors have access to and use explosive fireworks. Parental responsibility should be reinforced.

- c) There are a number of redundant sections including Sections 3-a, 3-c, 3-d, and 5, which could be deleted in the interest of brevity and clarity.
- d) Section 4-b (1) - We question whether the payments of damages for injury or death called for in the bill are adequately high.